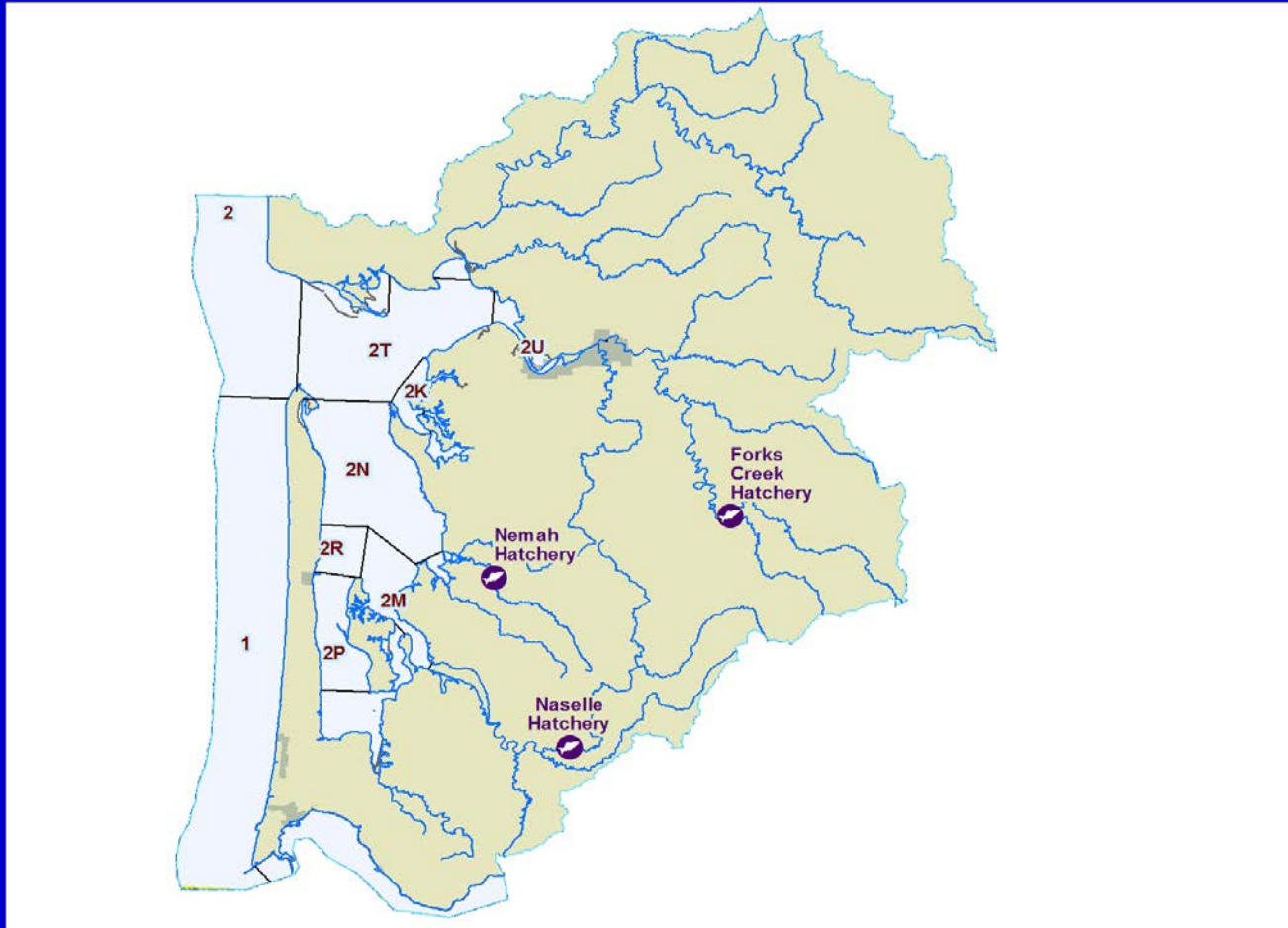




Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy



**Steve Thiesfeld; Region 6 Fish Program Manager
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
January 10, 2015**

Purpose

- Brief FWC on Draft Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy
- Receive public comment
- Seek additional Commission direction
- Seek Commission Approval
 - Release draft policy for public comment
 - Develop additional management option

Presentation Outline

- **Policy Development Schedule**
- **Key Policy Issues**
- **Review Commission Guidance**
- **Key Elements of Draft Policy**
- **Analysis of Alternatives**

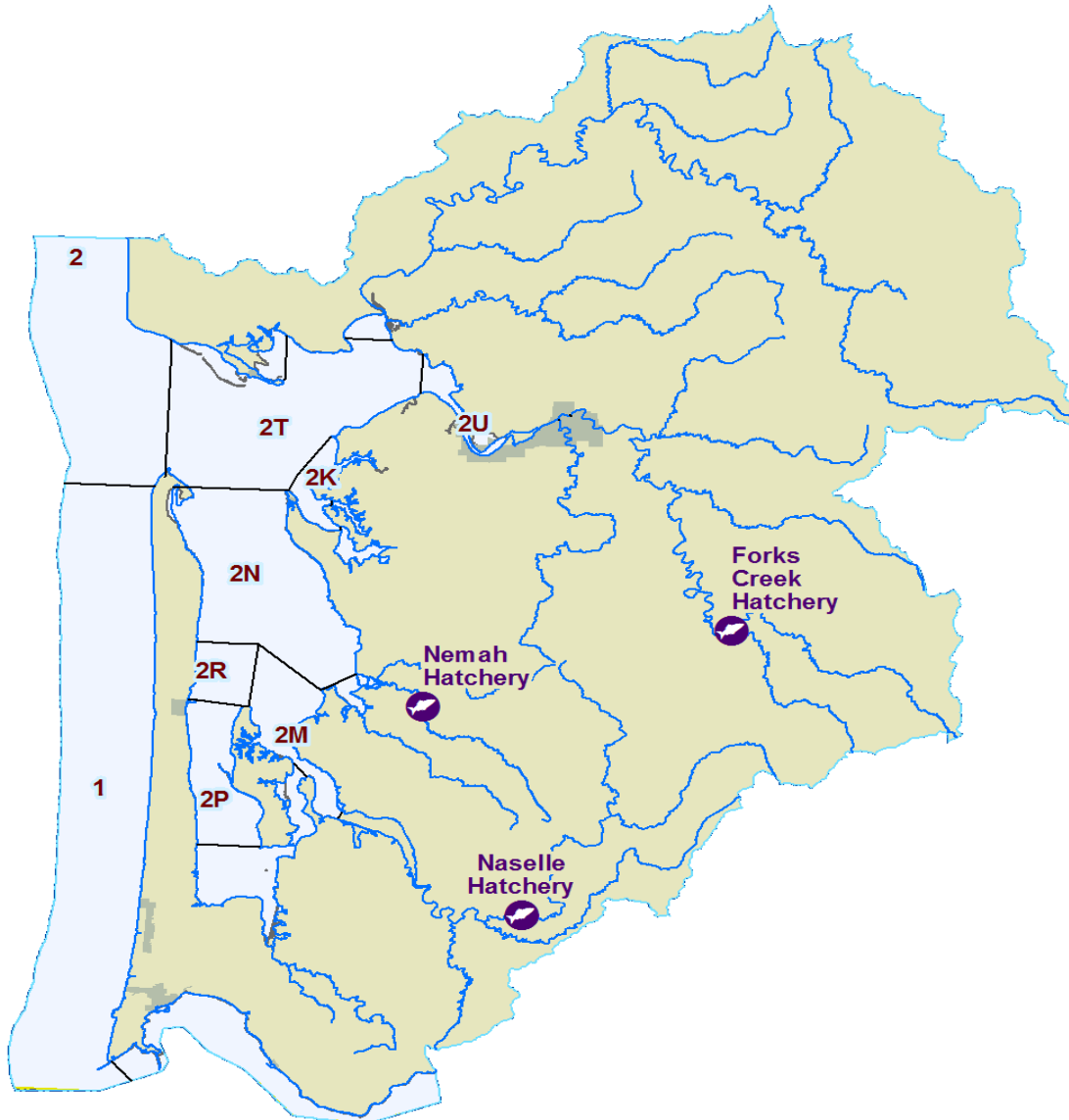
Policy Development Schedule

- Nov - FWC reviewed initial Policy sideboards
- Dec - FWC briefed on Policy development
- Jan - FWC considers draft Policy
 - Receives public comment
 - Provides additional direction
 - Considers 3-week public comment period
 - FWC provides additional direction on Policy
- Feb - FWC reviews public comment on draft Policy

Public Process

- Oct. 25th Open house
- Oct. 27th Ad-hoc committee/public meeting
- Nov. 1st Public workshop
- Nov. 13th Ad-hoc committee/public meeting
- Nov. 20th Ad-hoc committee/public meeting
- Dec. 6th Public workshop
- Dec. 29th, Public workshop
- Jan. 6th, Ad-Hoc committee/public meeting

Willapa Bay Basin



Why is a Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy Needed?

- Enhance Conservation Focus
- Restore and Maintain Public Trust
- Clarify Sharing of Impacts

Commission Guidance

Policy Statement & Guiding Principles

- **Implement Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy**
- Similar language as Grays Harbor Policy for transparency, communication, monitoring, enforcement, and in-season management.
- Think long term, recognize there may be short term disruptions, pain, and friction.

Commission Guidance

Fishery & Hatchery Management

- **Species Priority - Evaluate prioritizing:**
 - Chinook for recreational anglers
 - Coho and Chum for commercial fishers
- **Area Priority - Evaluate prioritizing:**
 - North bay (2T) for recreational anglers
 - South bay for commercial fishers
- **Evaluate switching Primary Chinook population from Naselle to Willapa**

Commission Guidance

Fishery & Hatchery Management

- Enhance chum production
 - Remote site incubators
 - On-station production
 - Investigate water re-use systems

Policy Element – PUBLIC TRUST

- **General Policy Statement**

- Improve communication, information sharing, and transparency

- **Guiding Principles**

- #9 Document and distribute:
 - Management objectives
 - In-season information
- #11 Properly implement mark-selective fisheries

- **Adaptive Management**

- Conduct and distribute annual fishery review

Policy Element - CONSERVATION

- **General Policy Statement**

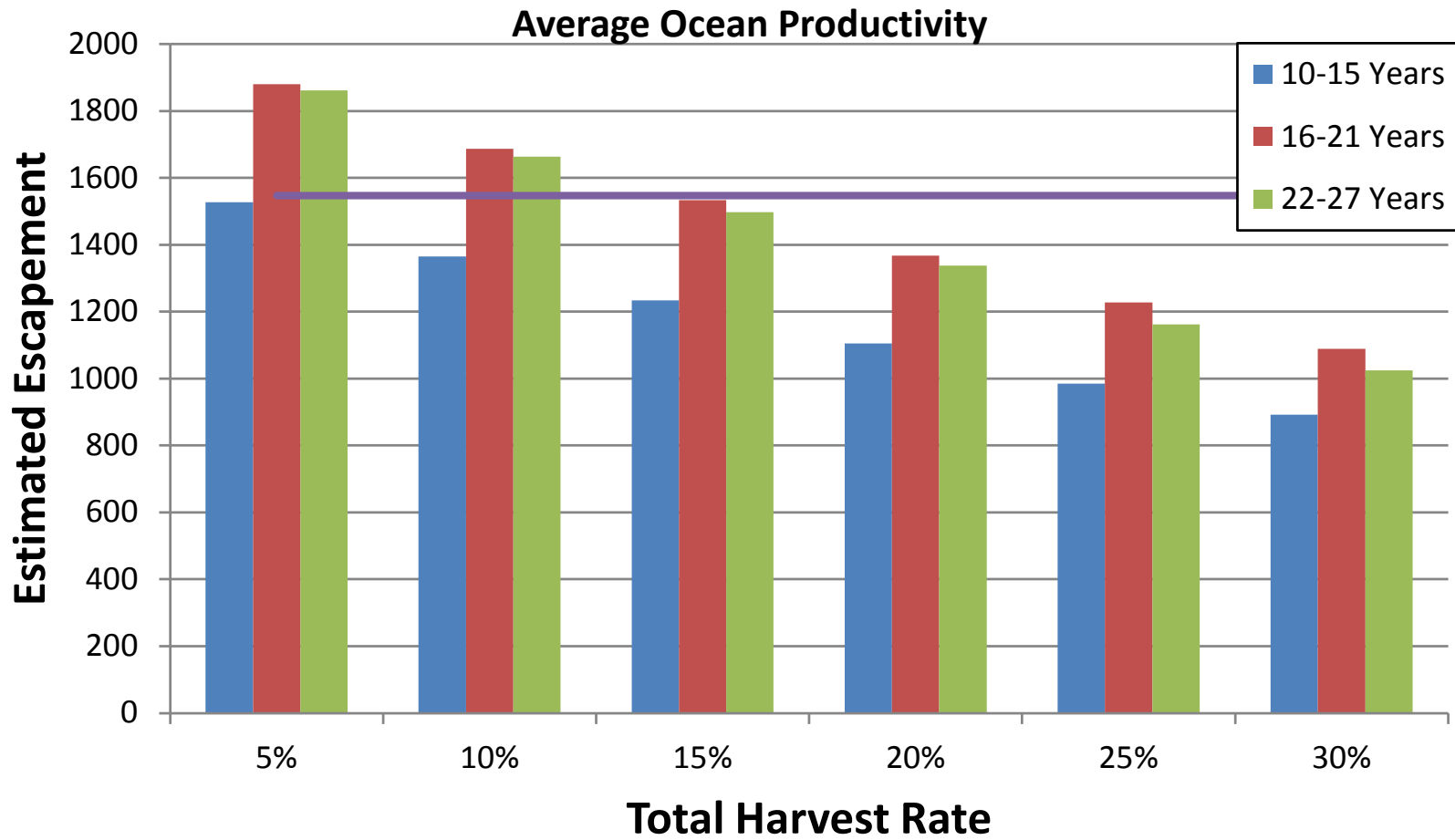
- ...achieve the conservation and restoration of wild salmon and steelhead in Willapa Bay and avoid ESA designation of any salmon species.

- **Conservation - Guiding Principles**

- #1 Manage fisheries consistent with conservation
- #3 Implement improved broodstock management
- #7 Account for catch and incidental mortality
- #8 Implement in-season conservation measures
- #10 Increase technical rigor

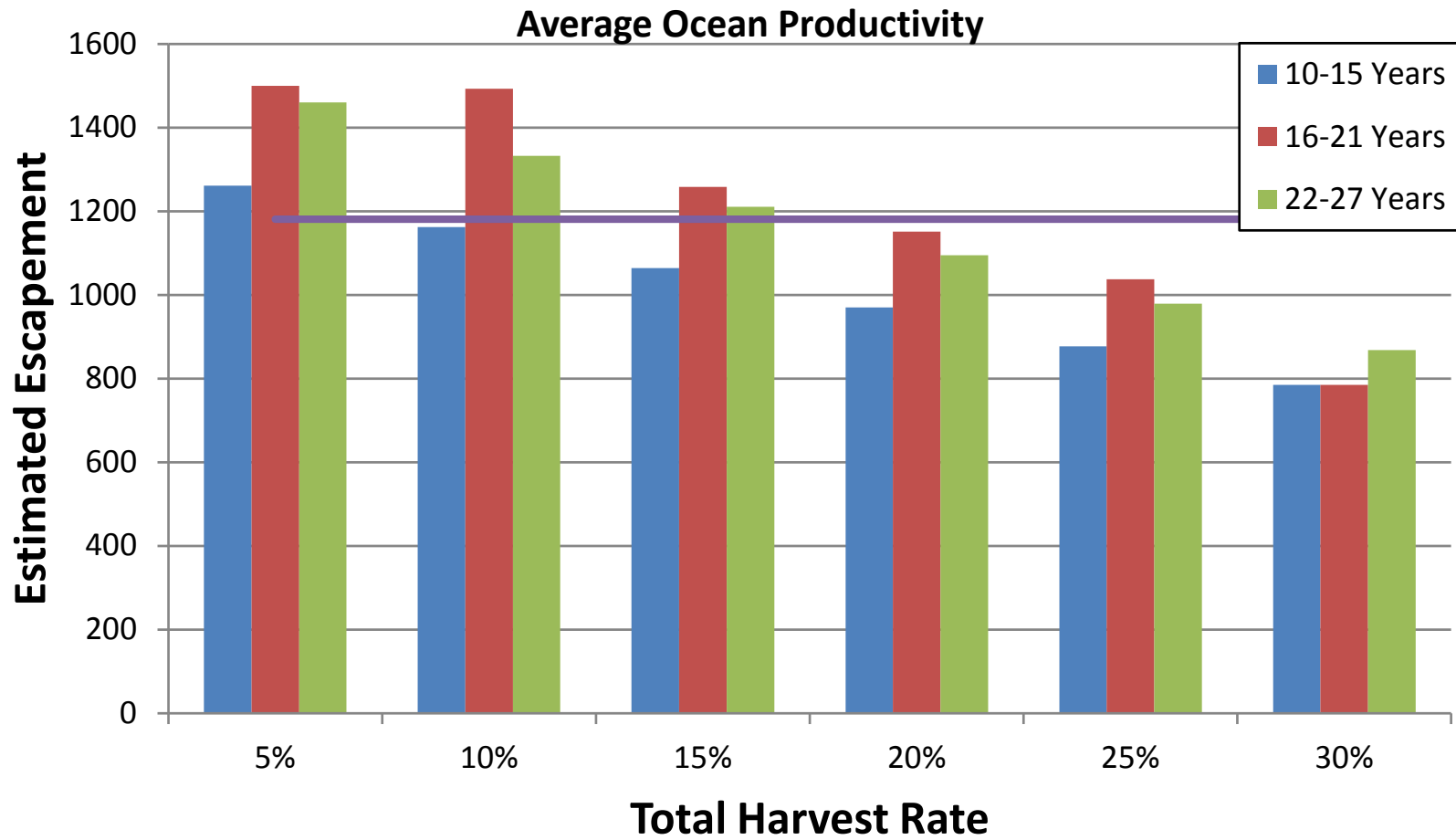
Chinook Conservation

Naselle River - Draft Preliminary Analysis



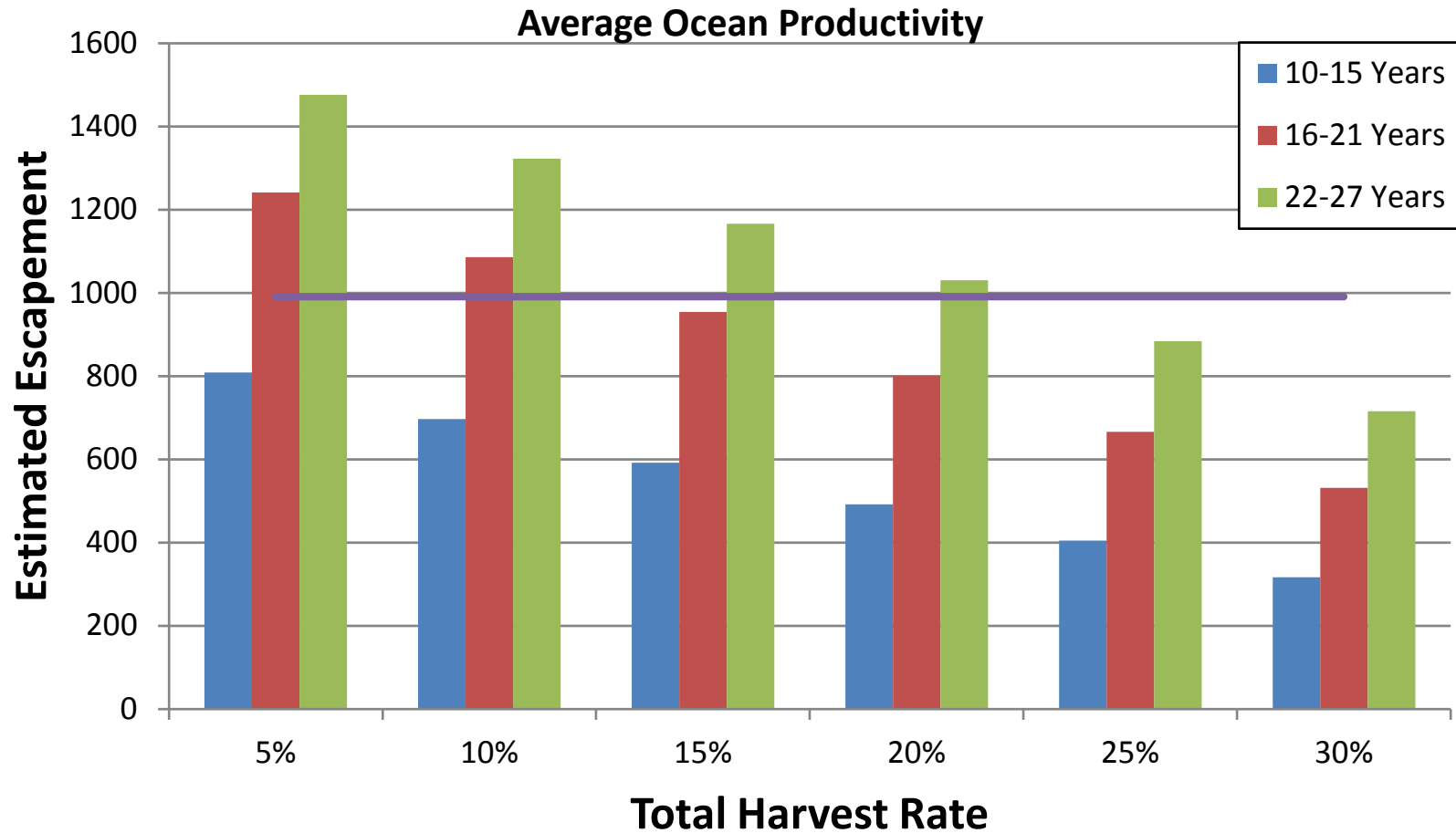
Chinook Conservation

Willapa River - Draft Preliminary Analysis



Chinook Conservation

North River - Draft Preliminary Analysis



Policy Element – MANAGEMENT

Evaluation Criteria

- **Conservation**
 - % achievement of broodstock standard (PNI = 0.67)
 - Spawners as % of goal in years 10-15
- **Recreational Fishery**
 - Chinook catch relative to 25% increase
- **Commercial Fishery**
 - Ex-vessel value relative to \$900,000

Chinook Management Alternative A

- Achieve spawner goal in 3 brood cycles
- Willapa as the primary population
- Beginning in 2018 limit impacts to 9.2%
- Seek needed resources to increase hatchery production to 9.65M
- Prioritizes recreational opportunity for Chinook in areas 2T and 2U through Sept. 15
- Provide commercial fisheries from remaining impacts
- Transitional fisheries from 2015 to 2017

Chinook Management Alternative B

- Achieve spawner goal in 4 brood cycles
- Willapa as the primary population
- Beginning in 2018 limit impacts to 14%
- Seek needed resources to increase hatchery production to 9.65M
- Prioritizes recreational opportunity for Chinook in areas 2T and 2U through Sept. 15
- Provide commercial fisheries from remaining impacts
- Transitional fisheries from 2015 to 2017

Chinook Management Alternative C

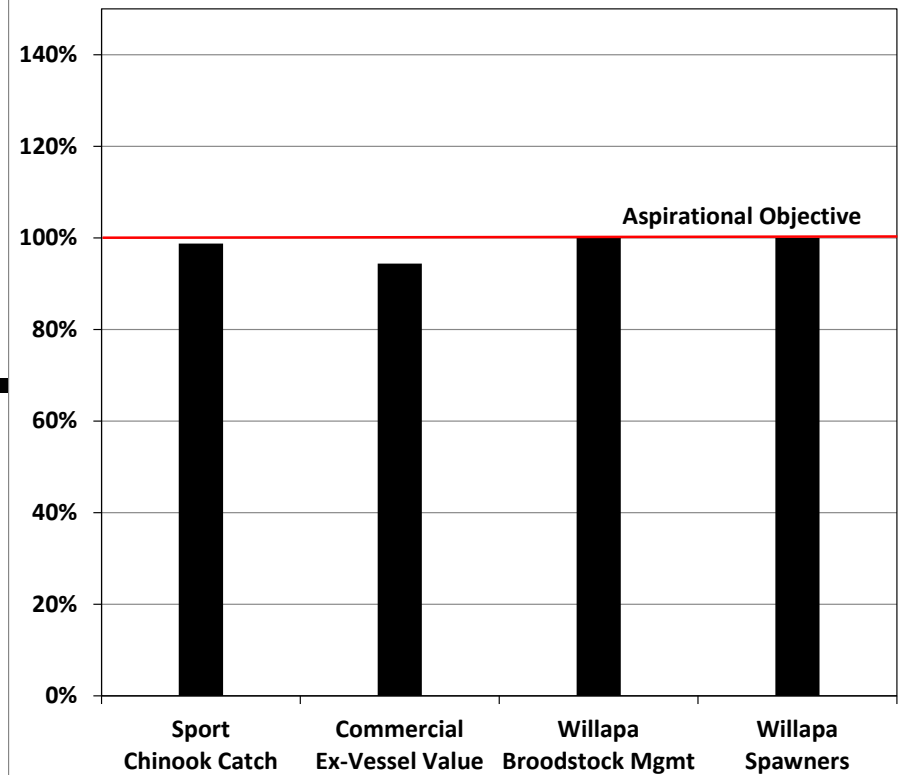
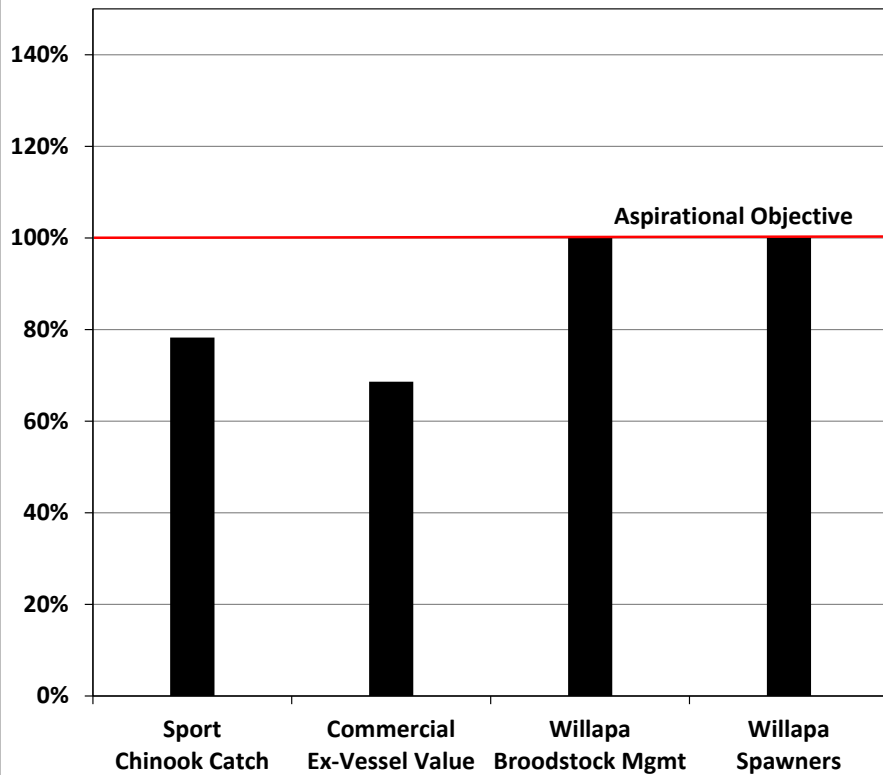
- Achieve spawner goals in 4 brood cycles
- Retain Naselle as the primary population
- Beginning in 2015 limit impacts to 13.7%
- Prioritizes recreational opportunity for Chinook in areas 2T and 2U through Sept. 15
- Provide commercial fisheries from remaining impacts

Willapa Primary Alternative A

10-15 year rebuilding

Current Production

Increased Production

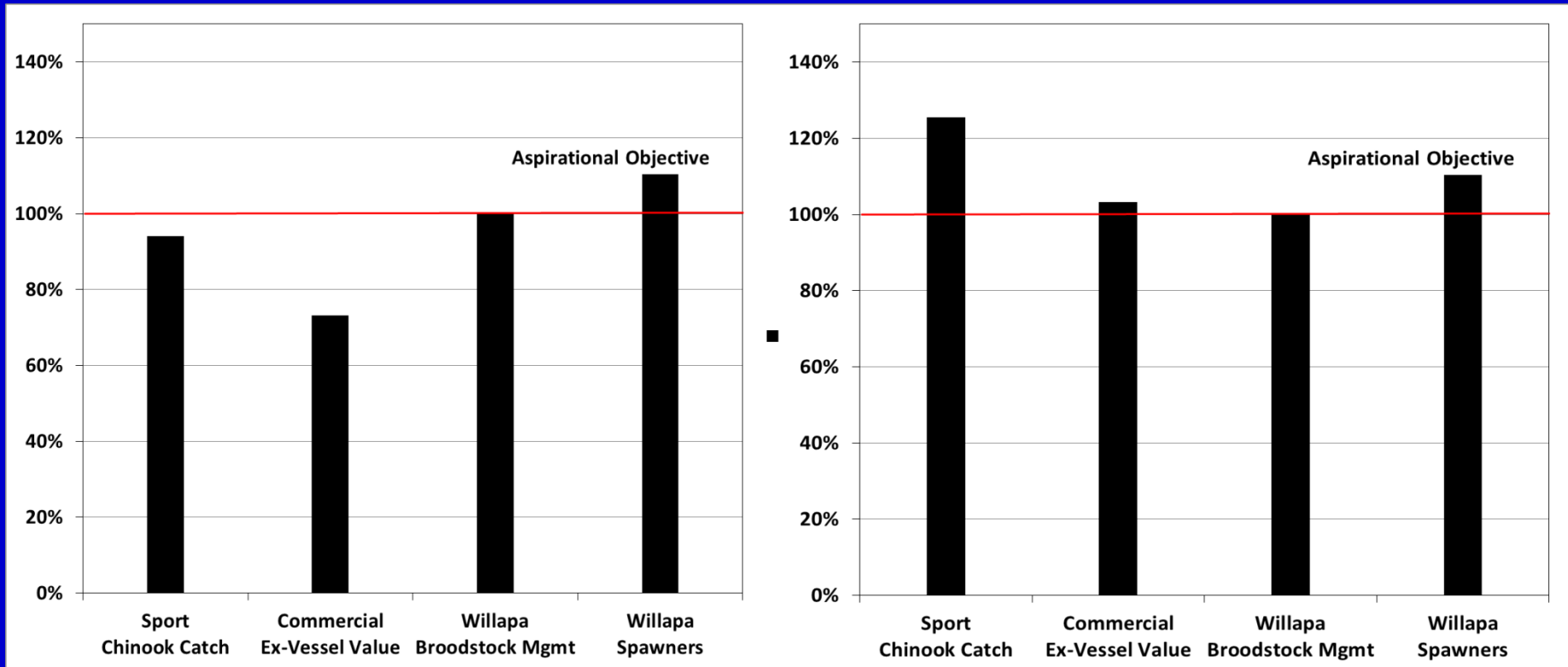


Willapa Primary Alternative B

16-21 year rebuilding

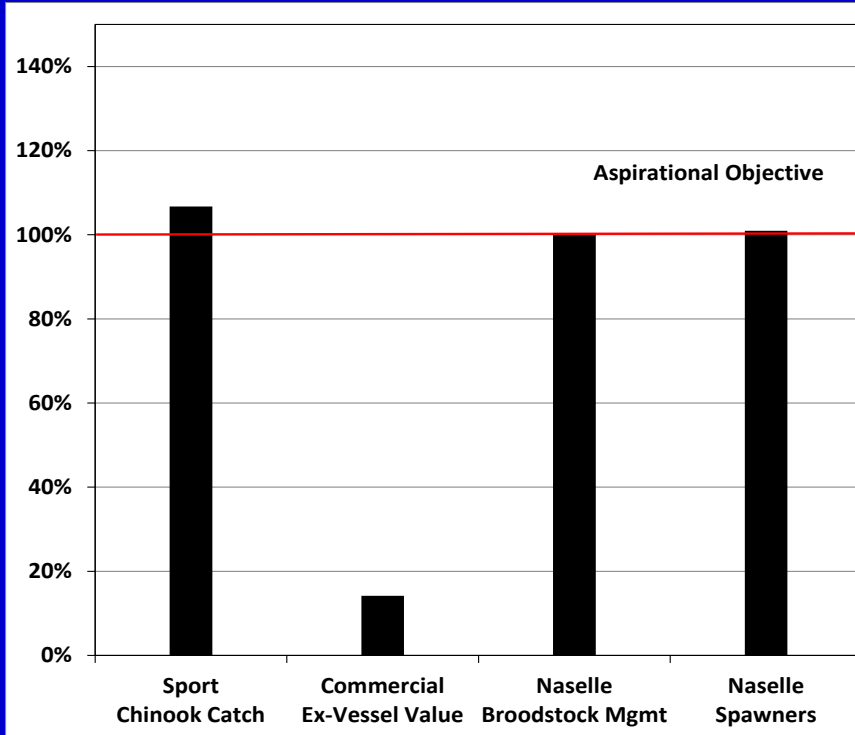
Current Production

Increased Production

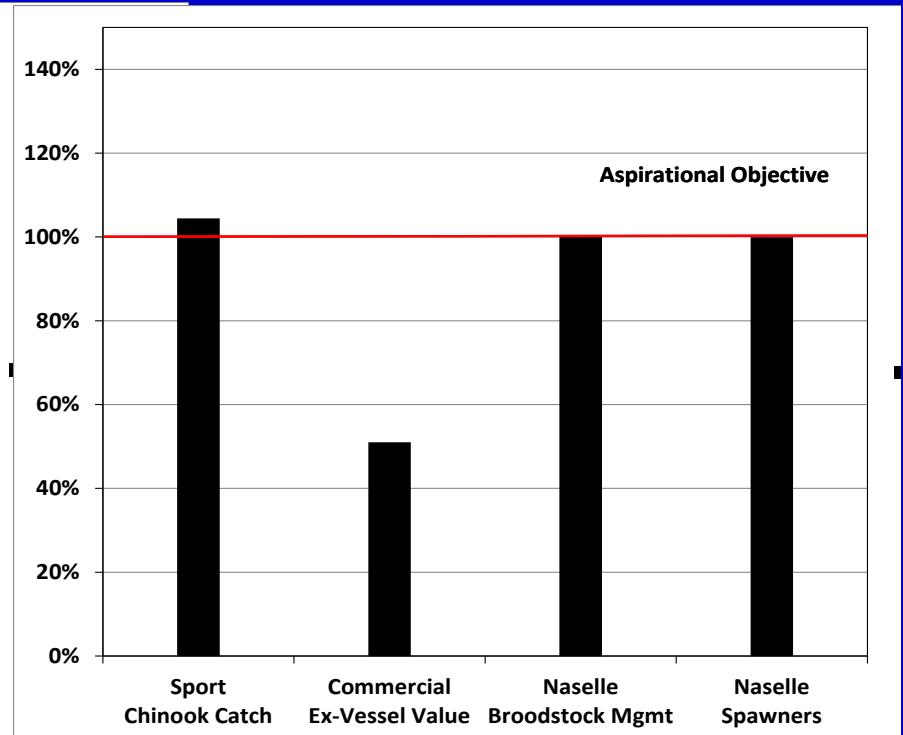


Naselle Primary Alternative C

Aggressive (10-15 yrs)



Rapid (16-21 yrs)



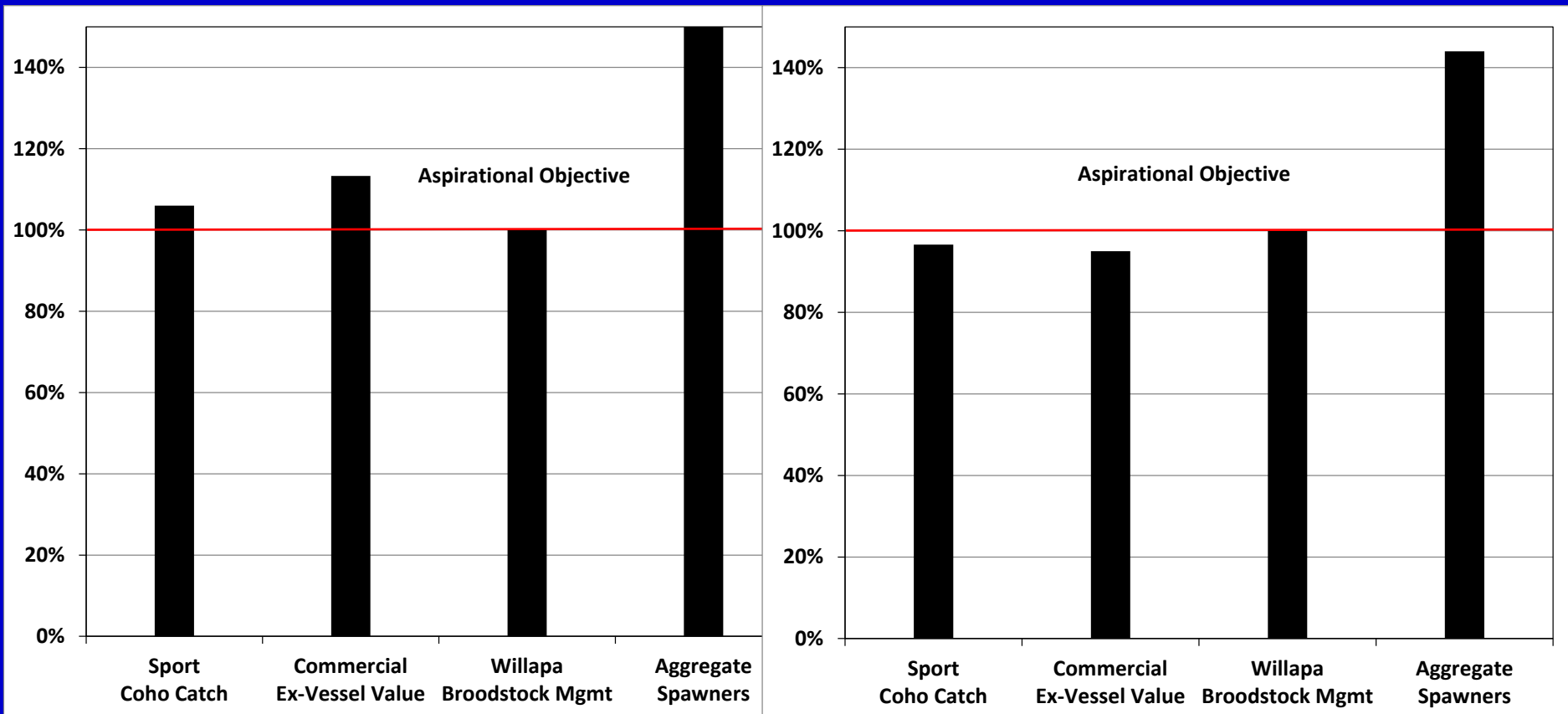
Coho Management

- Continue to achieve the aggregate spawner goal
- Hatchery programs and fisheries managed to achieve broodstock standards
- Prioritizes commercial opportunity beginning Sept. 16 through Oct. 14

Coho with Willapa Chinook Primary,

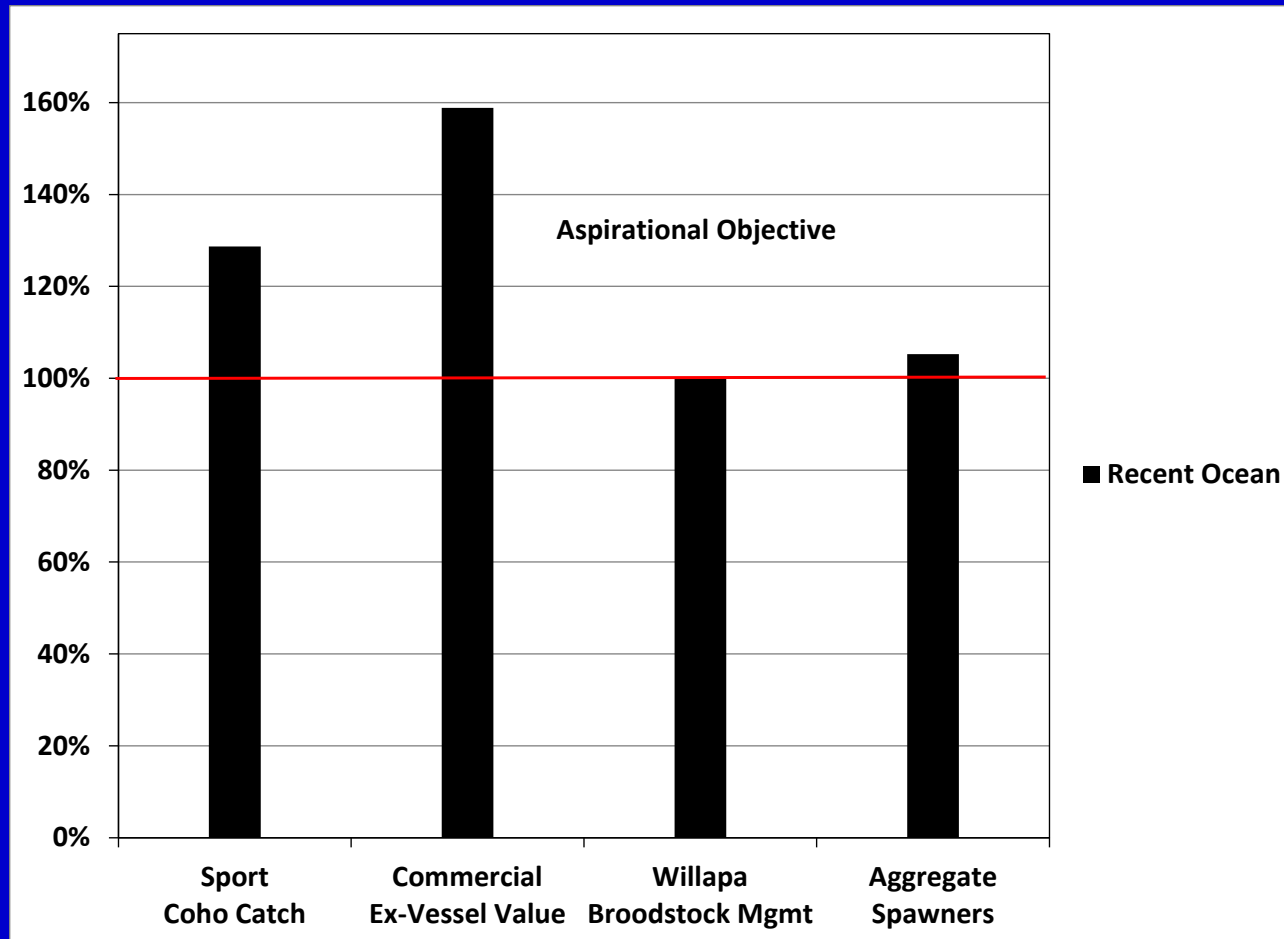
Current Chin Production

Increased Chin Production



Coho with Naselle Chinook Primary

With Rapid Chinook Recovery



Chum Management

- Achieve the aggregate spawner goal
- No Chum directed fishing and 10% impact limit until the spawner goal is achieved
- Prioritizes commercial opportunity beginning Oct. 15 through Oct. 31
- Evaluate hatchery Chum enhancement

Management Alternatives Key Points

- Aspirational objectives present a significant challenge
- Under “average” ocean productivity, harvest rates must be reduced to achieve Chinook spawning goal for Primary population
- Willapa as Chinook primary appears to have best chance for success
- Increased Chinook production at Naselle will help both sectors
- Objectives within reach

Next Steps

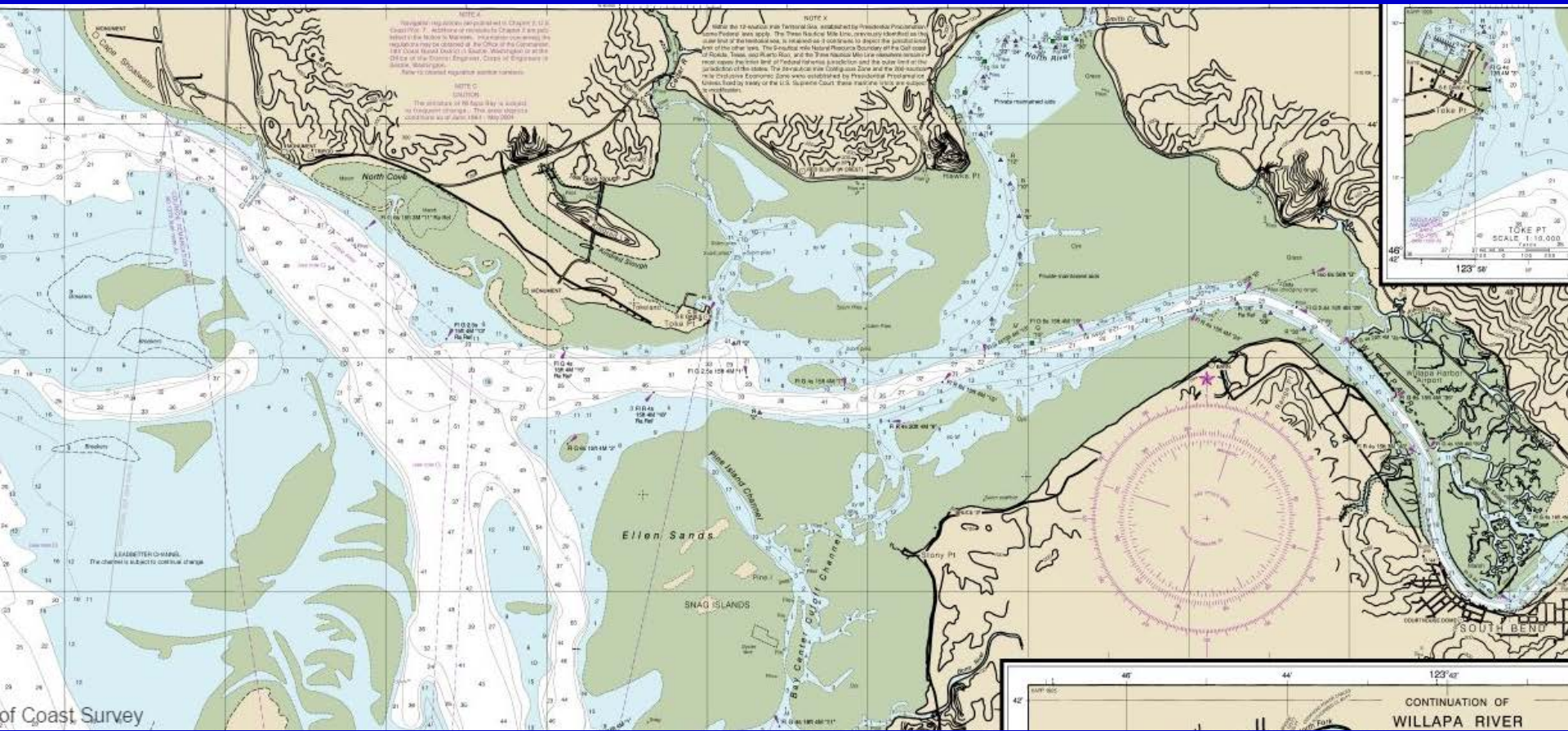
- **Today**
 - ✓ **Briefing on draft policy & analysis of options**
 - **Public comment**
 - **FWC provides additional direction on draft policy**
 - **Seek FWC approval**
 - **Release draft policy for public comment**
 - **Develop additional management option**
- **Feb - FWC reviews public comment on draft Policy**
 - **FWC provides additional direction on Policy**

Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy



Questions?

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of Coast Survey

CONTINUATION OF
WILLAPA RIVER